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TO : Chief, D/S

DATE: 24 April 1953

FROM : Acting Chief, S/CST

SUBJECT: Mission of Construction Branch

The Construction Branch has primary responsibility for maintenance of records, evaluating intelligence reports, and developing, from an economic viewpoint, data relating to the construction of all types of fixed installations within the scope and for the areas as hereinafter described.

Scope: The Branch mission includes responsibility for assembling and maintaining data on the construction of all types of fixed installations such as factories, mill buildings, houses, schools, dams, power plants, canals, highways, railroads, airfields, and other structures.

The types of data maintained include: construction methods and procedures, capabilities and extent of use of construction equipment, costs of labor and materials, consumption of labor and materials by construction, design standards and criteria, dimensions and sizes of various types of buildings, qualities and uses of the various types of construction materials, overall costs of construction projects, and economic and statistical data on volume and costs of construction in individual industries or areas.

An additional duty of the Construction Branch is to furnish consultant service to other branches of ORR and elsewhere in CIA in establishing requirements for materials, manpower, money, etc., to meet certain conditions and specifications for construction set by the requesting branch.

Maintenance of records of the production of various types of materials of construction is a part of the responsibility of several other branches of ORR. However, this branch has found it necessary, because of its responsibility for accounting for the consumption of construction materials, to maintain similar records on major materials and more extensive records on miscellaneous items such as window glass. Maximum use is made of the material prepared by these other branches to avoid actual duplication of work effort.

Area: Emphasis is placed on the countries comprising the Soviet Bloc with detailed records kept only on these countries. Secondary interest is on the countries immediately adjacent to the Bloc countries,

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but records are maintained only on subjects considered of primary importance and closely related to the Bloc.

Regardless of geographical area, some detailed records are kept of items of construction interest which are considered to be desirable for broadening the technical knowledge of Branch analysts and to be of possible use as a means of comparison with Soviet Bloc procedures and accomplishments.

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